

The City of Manitou Springs City Council, along with the Manitou Springs Police Department, would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our city.

During the summer months, there is an increase in motorcycle traffic on city streets. With this in mind, we would like to take this opportunity to ask for your cooperation. Most motorcycle riders are operating motorcycles on public roadways, with altered exhaust. In some cases, this is unknown to the rider because the exhaust was modified prior to their purchase of the motorcycle. In other cases, the rider modified the exhaust himself. In either case, it is illegal to operate a motorcycle with modified exhaust.

While it is illegal for motorcycles to be operated this way, it is not the intention of the Manitou Springs Police Department to stop or harass these riders. What we are asking for is this, please be courteous while riding your bikes through the city. In warmer weather, events in Manitou Springs tend to move outdoors. Several of our businesses host outdoor events, which include weddings, picnics and various festivals.

We have received numerous complaints from citizens and business owners regarding the loud exhaust from motorcycles. We have had weddings, in outdoor venues, which were interrupted by motorcycles revving their engines as they passed by. In some cases, the words of the minister, bride, and groom were drowned out by the loud noise.

Motorcyclist can do several things to assist us with keeping Manitou Springs an enjoyable place to live and visit. We ask that you try not to rev your engines any more than necessary while riding through town. We ask that you try not to accelerate in a manner as to cause unnecessary sound. By using these suggestions, and by being courteous to others, most riders will enjoy their time in Manitou Springs. We thank you for your consideration.

We ask that you ride quietly during any time of the day or night. There has been an increase in loud motorcycles leaving some of the bars late at night. When you are leaving, please be as considerate as possible.

Officers can stop your for the violating the following ordinance:

10.04.010 (225) Muffler-prevention of noise. (1) Every motor vehicle subject to registration and operated on a highway shall at all times be equipped with an adequate muffler in constant operation and properly maintained to prevent any excessive or unusual noise, and no such muffler or exhaust system shall be equipped with a cut-off bypass, or similar device. No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner, which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and such original muffler shall comply with all of the requirements of this section.

(1.5) Any commercial vehicle, as defined in section 42-4-2325 (1) (a) is subject to registration and operated on a highway, that is equipped with an engine compression brake device is required to have a muffler.

(2) A muffler is a device consisting of a series of chamber or baffle plates or other mechanical design for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine and effective in reducing noise.

Questions and answers:

Q: What constitutes riding in a considerate and courteous manner?

A: The answer to this question has many parts.

- 1. Ride in a manner so as not to draw attention to yourself or your bike.**
- 2. Ride like the police are watching.**
- 3. Go easy on the throttle/acceleration – RPM's down and gear up.**
- 4. Avoid noise sensitive areas.**
- 5. Avoid aggressive riding tactics.**

Q: How is the loudness of my exhaust measured?

A: At present MSPD leaves this up to the officer's discretion. That usually means that if a MSPD officer is in his/her car with the window rolled up, and can hear your bike's exhaust noise above the street background noise, you could get a ticker.

Q: Isn't the use of a noise meter the most accurate and correct method of measuring noise?

A: Yes, however the MSPD assures us that using those meters to test every bike suspected of exceeding the noise limit would result in more aggressive enforcement of the City Code.

Q: Does this mean I can't ride my customized motorcycle inside the city limits?

A: While it is clearly not in compliance with the city ordinance to operate a bike with modified exhaust in Manitou Springs, the riding community has been reassured repeatedly by the MSPD that riders who are considerate and courteous while riding should be okay.

Q: What are the locations of noise sensitive areas?

A: The MSPD receives numerous complaints from citizens and business owners alike. The downtown area is currently going under renovation. There

are new lofts and residences along Manitou Avenue, as well as many businesses. Please be courteous in all areas where there are homes, businesses and outdoor venues.

Q: What if I'm running straight pipes?

A: Riders who choose to operate these types of exhaust systems on public roads, without appropriate baffles, will face aggressive enforcement.

Q: What should I do if I need new pipes?

A: While the best way to avoid a noise citation is to use only OEM parts, this may be unacceptable to you for many reasons. Dealers, shops, and parts suppliers will help you select pipes that are in compliance.

Q: What makes an exhaust system legal or illegal?

A: With a few exceptions, exhaust systems installed by the manufacturer are stamped on the bottom of the muffler as compliant with Environmental Protection Agency standards. The majority of aftermarket systems will be supplied to you with documentation stating that they are not legal for street use or have that information stamped on the pipe.

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Q: Who do I contact for more information?

A: Link to any of the following web sites:

www.abateofcolo.org

www.ama-cycle.org

www.apexsportsinc.com

www.mrf.org

www.manitousprings-co.gov

We thank you for visiting our city, and we hope that you enjoy your stay.

Manitou Springs City Council

Manitou Springs Police Department

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